



Project Update

Fields Brook Superfund Site

Ashtabula, Ohio

July 1999

This Fact Sheet Will Tell You About

- Recent changes in cleanup levels
- Millennium cleanup and time line for other cleanups
- Legal agreement between U.S. EPA and responsible parties

Public Meeting

The U.S. EPA will hold public availability sessions to give you an update on activities at the Fields Brook Superfund site. The availability sessions will be held on **Wednesday, July 14, 1999**, from **2-4 p.m.** and from **6-9 p.m.** at the

Ashtabula Area Chamber of Commerce
4536 Main Ave.
Ashtabula, Ohio

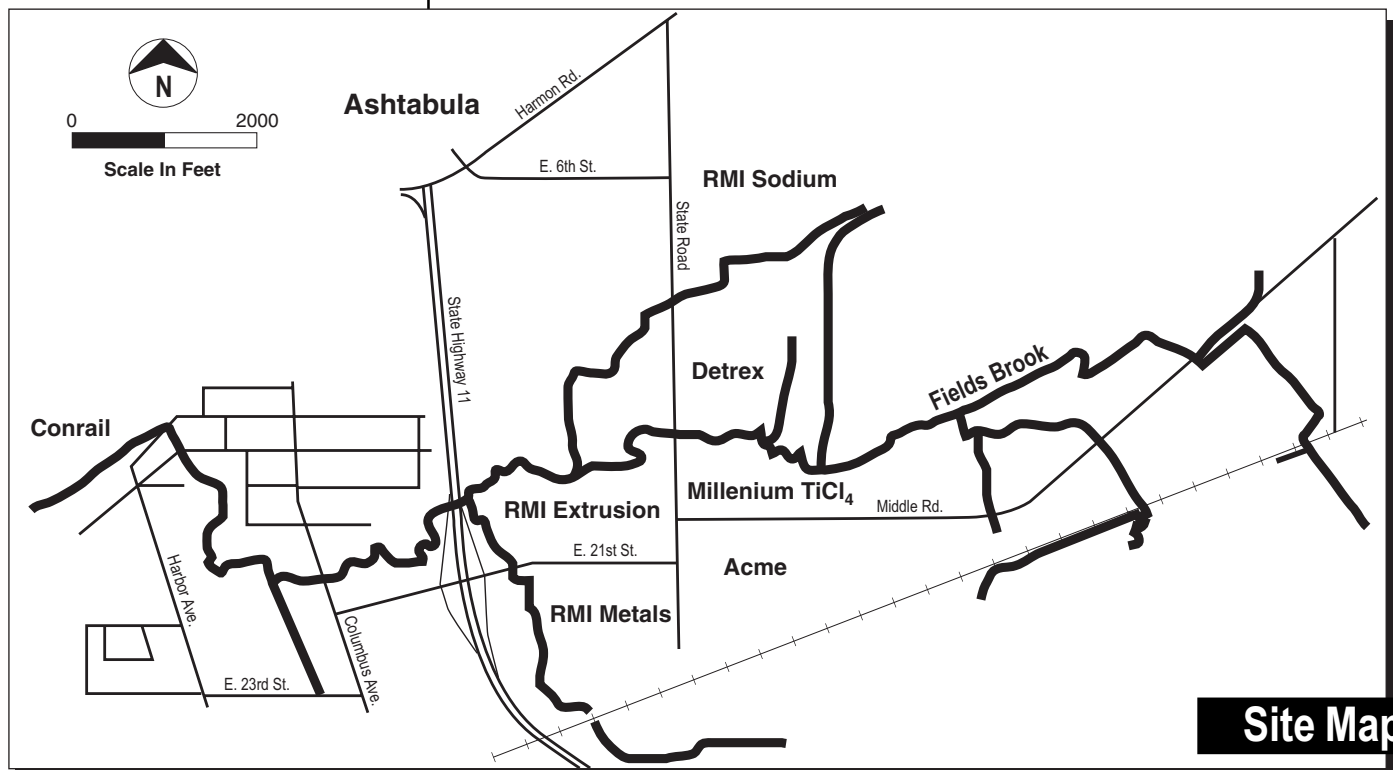
Introduction

This fact sheet provides information about the Fields Brook Superfund site in Ashtabula, Ohio. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) will oversee cleanup work that will begin this summer at the Millennium Inorganic Chemical Company's titanium tetrachloride (TiCl_4) facility (Millennium). Cleanup plans for other locations of the site are currently being designed; work at these locations will start next year. The U.S. EPA has scheduled public availability sessions on July 14, 1999, to inform you of progress at the site (see details at left). If you have any questions about this update or the site in general, please contact the U.S. EPA or Ohio EPA staff listed on the back page.

Site History

Fields Brook drains a 6-square-mile area in the City and Township of Ashtabula, Ohio. The 3.9-mile channel begins near Cook Road in the Township of Ashtabula and flows through industrial and residential areas before it merges with the Ashtabula River in the City of Ashtabula.

The U.S. EPA placed the Fields Brook site on the Superfund National Priorities List in 1983. Because the Fields Brook site is so large, the U.S. EPA divided it into separate work areas, which are called Operable Units. The Sediment Operable Unit addresses the cleanup of contaminated sediment in Fields Brook and its tributaries. The Floodplain/Wetland Area Operable Unit addresses the cleanup of contami-



nated soil in floodplain and wetland areas adjacent to Fields Brook. The Source Control Operable Unit addresses the cleanup of the industrial areas that could recontaminate Fields Brook. Although the Source Control Areas were previously evaluated as a group, they are now managed as separate operable units so that schedules and costs can be more easily tracked.

After extensive site investigations, evaluation of different cleanup methods and consideration of comments from the public, the U.S. EPA finalized cleanup plans for the Fields Brook Operable Units. A Record of Decision (ROD), the document outlining the U.S. EPA's cleanup plan, was signed for the Sediment Operable Unit in 1986. In August 1997, the ROD was modified in a document called an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD). The ESD described changes, which included identification of specific cleanup goals for the sediment and reduction of the total volume to be excavated. RODs were signed for both the Floodplain/Wetland Area and the Source Control Operable Units in 1997. In April 1999, an ESD that applies to the Sediment, Floodplain/Wetland Area and Source Control Operable Units was approved. This fact sheet summarizes these recent changes, describes the cleanup underway at the Millennium facility, and summarizes a Consent Decree recently signed by the U.S. EPA and several parties regarding the cleanup work at the Fields Brook site.

The investigation and cleanup of the Ashtabula River is not part of the Fields Brook Superfund site cleanup. The Ashtabula River is being addressed independently by the Ashtabula Public/Private Partnership. For more information about the Ashtabula River investigation, please contact either Rick Nagle at (312) 353-8222 or Amy Mucha at (312) 886-9858.

Operable Unit Updates

Sediment, Floodplain/Wetland Area and Source Control

Based on previous screening and sampling of Fields Brook for radionuclides (including radium) in 1998, the U.S. EPA issued an ESD to modify the cleanup plans for the Sediment, Floodplain/Wetland Area and Source Control Operable Units. (For more information about the discovery of radionuclides in Fields Brook, please see the November 1998 fact sheet in the information repositories.)

The April 1999 ESD established both industrial and residential cleanup levels for radium contamination discovered in Fields Brook. Also, the ESD upgraded the design of the on-site landfill and modified the previous uranium cleanup levels with more conservative guidelines.

Sampling is now being conducted in Fields Brook to further define areas of radionuclides. The sampling work will address the portion of the brook adjacent to the Millennium plant #2 area (State and Middle Roads) down to where the brook flows through residential neighborhoods. Based on previous screening and sampling of Fields Brook last year, the U.S. EPA does not anticipate that the radionuclide contamination extends to the portion of Fields Brook that flows through residential neighborhoods. Residents may notice sampling crews along the brook wearing protective clothing. This is standard practice when performing this kind of work. The sampling results will allow the U.S. EPA to identify areas that require excavation due to radionuclide contamination. This information will be incorporated into the

cleanup design, which the settling parties are preparing and will submit to the U.S. EPA later this year.

The cleanup design will include plans for the construction of the Fields Brook landfill that will be built on what is now known as the RMI Sodium property. It is expected that the landfill will be constructed next year. Once complete, contaminated soil and sediment excavated from Fields Brook will be placed in this landfill. In addition, excavated material from Acme Scrap Iron and Metal and RMI Metals Reduction source control areas will be disposed in this landfill.

Source Control

Millennium

Approximately 70,000 cubic yards of soil and mining residuals contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and low levels of radionuclides will be excavated at the Millennium facility and placed in the existing Millennium landfill starting this summer (see photo). Millennium will be exceeding the U.S. EPA's cleanup requirements by removing all of



Terese Van Donsel, U.S.EPA's remedial project manager, and Mike Cole, site foreman, discuss the placement of Superfund material in the Millennium landfill.

the mining residual pile instead of containing some of the material onsite. The contaminated mining residual pile is located behind the TiCl_4 production facility. This pile was placed at the site by a prior owner. The work should be completed by the end of the year.

Acme Scrap Iron and Metal & RMI Metals Reduction

The cleanup plans for these source control areas are in the design stage. Additional work to delineate the PCB-contamination will occur this year. The cleanups will take place once the Fields Brook landfill (located on the RMI Sodium property) is available for disposal. The Acme Scrap Metal and Iron cleanup will also address the contaminated South Sewers, which connect Acme to Fields Brook.

Detrex Inorganic Chemicals

The cleanup plan for Detrex is in the design stage. A slurry wall (to prevent contaminated ground water from migrating off-site) and extraction wells will be constructed next year.

North Sewers

The cleanup plan for the North Sewers is in the design stage. Replacement sewers will be constructed next year. Old sewers will then be filled to prevent the release of contaminated sediment to Fields Brook.

Conrail

The excavation and offsite disposal of arsenic-contaminated soil at Conrail was completed in December 1998. Conrail exceeded the requirements in the ROD, which called for onsite consolidation and containment of the contaminated soil.



Contaminated soils and sediments from Fields Brook will be cleaned up in 2001.

CLEANUP SCHEDULE

The timetable below outlines the current schedule for the Fields Brook site cleanup:

1998

- completed excavation and disposal of arsenic-contaminated soil from Conrail property in December

1999

- complete designs for Fields Brook cleanup and landfill to be built at what is now RMI Sodium
- complete cleanup at Millennium TiCl_4 facility, where soil/mining residuals are contaminated with PCBs and low-level radionuclides

2000

- Construct on-site landfill
- Perform cleanups at remaining source control areas: Acme Scrap Iron and Metal, RMI Metals Reduction, Detrex Inorganic Chemicals and North Sewers
- Prepare for Sediment and Floodplain/Wetland Area cleanups

2001

- Perform Sediment and Floodplain/Wetland Area excavation

2002

- Complete any remaining tasks, such as seeding, that may not be completed before winter

Consent Decree

On May 14, 1999, the U.S. EPA and U.S. Department of Justice lodged a joint consent decree with the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. The consent decree requires the settling parties to fund and complete the design and conduct the cleanup of the Sediment and Floodplain/Wetlands Operable Units of the Fields Brook site. These two Operable Units address the cleanup of Fields Brook (see photo).

Under terms of the agreement, the 25 responsible parties will pay the government \$1,703,817 in past costs and \$840,000 in natural resource damages. The companies will also pay for and manage the cleanup of contaminated Fields Brook soils and sediments, and provide long-term monitoring and maintenance of the landfill to be built at the site.

The settling parties are currently working on the final design of the cleanup. Beginning next spring, they will start building the Fields Brook landfill (on the RMI Sodium property) that will hold the contaminated soil and sediment to be removed from Fields Brook.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Anyone interested in learning more about the Fields Brook site cleanup, or the Superfund process in general, is encouraged to review documents in the information repositories located at:

Ashtabula County District Library
335 West 44th Street
Ashtabula, Ohio

Kent State Campus Library
3325 West 13th Street
Ashtabula, Ohio

For additional information about the Fields Brook site, please contact:

U.S. EPA Contacts

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Fields Brook Superfund Site Update

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